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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/423,035	01/13/2000	GERALD F. JOYCE	TSR1463.4	6257

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THE SCRIPPS RESEARCH INSTITUTE
10550 NORTH TORREY PINES ROAD
MAIL DROP TPC 8
LA JOLLA, CA 92037

EXAMINER

LACOURCIERE, KAREN A

ART UNIT PAPER NUMBER

1635

DATE MAILED: 03/31/2003

29

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/423,035

Applicant(s)

JOYCE ET AL.

Examiner

Karen A. Lacourciere

Art Unit

1635

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --**Period for Reply**

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 1 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 January 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-46 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) 23 and 24 is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☒ Claim(s) 1-22 and 25-46 are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on _____ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☐ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ 6) ☐ Other: _____

Application/Control Number: 09/423,035

Page 2

Art Unit: 1635

DETAILED ACTION

Election/Restrictions

Applicant's election without traverse of Group I, claims 1-22 and 25-46 in Paper No. 15 is acknowledged, however, a further restriction within Group I is set forth herein due to the large number of structurally distinct DNA molecules claimed within Group I.

Claims 23 and 24 are withdrawn from further consideration pursuant to 37 CFR 1.142(b) as being drawn to a nonelected invention, there being no allowable generic or linking claim. Election was made **without** traverse in Paper No. 15.

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

The claims are specifically directed to catalytic DNA molecules with two different stem structural motifs, Formula I and Formula II (SEQ ID NO:122), and different sequence structures, SEQ ID NO:102-121, which target different RNAs (EG HIV-1, FIV, IGF-R, E100 ligase) different regions within an RNA (eg. regions encoding different HIV proteins) and different regions within the same RNA, and inhibit the expression of different proteins or cleave a target protein to a different degree.

This international searching authority considers that the international application does not comply with the requirements of unity of invention (Rules 13.1, 13.2, and 13.3) for the reasons indicated below:

According to the guidelines in Section (f)(i)(a) of Annex B of the PCT Administrative Instructions, the special technical feature as defined by PCT Rule 13.2 shall be considered to be met when all the alternatives of a Markush-group are of similar nature.

Art Unit: 1635

For chemical alternatives, such as the claimed antisense sequences, the Markush group shall be regarded as being of similar nature when

(A) all alternatives have a common property or activity and

(B)(1) a common structure is present, i.e, a significant structure is shared by all of the alternatives or

(B)(2) in cases where the common structure cannot be the unifying criteria, all alternatives belong to an art recognized class of compounds in the art to which the invention pertains.

The instant catalytic DNA sequences, SEQ ID NO:102-121, and the formulas I and II (SEQ ID NO:122) are considered to be each separate inventions for the following reasons:

The sequences do not meet the criteria of (A), common property or activity and (B)(1) common structure, ie. significant structure shared by all the alternatives or (B)(2), art recognized class of compounds. Each sequence targets a different RNAs (EG HIV-1, FIV, IGF-R, E100 ligase) different regions within an RNA (eg. regions encoding different HIV proteins) and different regions within the same RNA. Each of the claimed catalytic DNAs have a different activity in that they cleave a different RNA and regulate the expression of different proteins. Even catalytic DNAs targeting the same gene have a different activity in that they cleave at a different location within the RNA and have different levels of cleavage activity, and regulate expression of a protein to a different extent. Each member of the class cannot be substituted, one for the other, with the expectation that the same intended result would be achieved.

Further, although the catalytic DNAs have small regions in common (ie. stem region) the sequences do not meet the criteria of (B)(1), as they do not share, one with another, a significant common core structure, for example, the major portion of sequences with the catalytic DNA are not common between the claimed molecules and the region which determines the activity of the catalytic DNA, ie. the substrate binding region, is not common between the claimed DNA molecules. Accordingly, unity of invention between the catalytic DNA sequences is lacking and each sequence claimed is considered to constitute a special technical feature.

Therefore, Applicant must elect a single catalytic DNA molecule, SEQ ID

NO:102-121, and one corresponding stem formula, I or II (SEQ ID NO:122) in response to this Official action.

Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even though the requirement be traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

Applicant is reminded that upon the cancellation of claims to a non-elected invention, the inventorship must be amended in compliance with 37 CFR 1.48(b) if one or more of the currently named inventors is no longer an inventor of at least one claim remaining in the application. Any amendment of inventorship must be accompanied by a request under 37 CFR 1.48(b) and by the fee required under 37 CFR 1.17(i).

Conclusion

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Karen A. Lacourciere whose telephone number is (703) 308-7523. The examiner can normally be reached on Monday-Thursday 8:30-6:30.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John LeGuyader can be reached on (703) 308-0447. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 308-4242 for regular communications and (703) 305-1935 for After Final communications.

Art Unit: 1635

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0196.

Karen A. Lacourciere
March 25, 2003

Karen Lacourciere
**KAREN LACOURCIERE
PATENT EXAMINER**